

Report to Council

29 October 2024

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| Subject: | Nomination to the office of Honorary Alderman |
| Director: | James McLaughlin, Assistant Chief Executive James_Mclaughlin@sandwell.gov.uk |
| Contact Officer: | Suky Suthi-Nagra, Democratic and Member Services Manager Suky_SuthiNagra@sandwell.gov.uk |

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the office of Honorary Alderman of the Borough be conferred upon Mr. Victor Silvester.
- 1.2 That the Assistant Director Legal and Assurance and Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Mayor and Leader of the Council, be authorised to make the appropriate arrangements to implement the decision set out in (1) above.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The General Purposes and Arbitration Committee, at its meeting held on 22 July 2024, considered proposals to admit a suitable person as Honorary Alderman
- 2.2 Members of the General Purposes and Arbitration Committee supported a proposal from Councillor Bill Gavan that Mr. Victor Silvester be nominated to the office of Honorary Alderman as set out in 4.1 of this report.



3 How does this deliver objectives of the Council Plan?

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| Growing Up in Sandwell | Nominations for Honorary Alderman/Alderwomen are an endorsement of the aspirations, talent and achievements of local people. |
| Living in Sandwell | |
| Thriving Economy in Sandwell | |
| Healthy in Sandwell | |
| One Council One Team | |

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 In order to recognise eminent or notable service rendered to the Borough by former Councillors, in 1997, the Council introduced a scheme for the enrolment of Honorary Alderman of the Borough. This scheme was amended in 2008 to reduce the required number of years' service to twelve and in 2013 to reflect Section 29 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 to the effect that any reference to Honorary Alderman should be followed by the insertion of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman.
- 4.2 Former Councillor Victor Silvester served on Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council for 12 years as councillor for Smethwick Ward
- 4.2 The General Purposes and Arbitration Committee considered Mr Silvester's additional contributions to the Borough of Sandwell and concluded that he fulfilled the eminent service criteria associated with the honour.

5 Implications

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| Resources: | Local Authorities are empowered to incur reasonable expenditure on the provision of an address or casket on the conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman. |
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| | It is the practice of this Authority to present a Badge of Office and a commemorative scroll to the Aldermen/Alderwomen, the cost of which is met from the civic ceremonial budget. |
| Legal and Governance: | The authority to confer the title of Honorary Alderman/Alderwomen and the power to incur expenditure is contained within Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, as now amended by Section 29 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. |
| Risk: | There are no risks arising from this report. |
| Equality: | An equality impact assessment is not required. |
| Health and Wellbeing: | There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from this report. |
| Social Value: | There are no social value implications arising from this report. |
| Climate Change: | There are no climate change implications arising from this report |
| Corporate Parenting: | There are no corporate parenting implications arising from this report. |

6 Appendices

Not applicable

7. Background Papers

N/A

